

chosen a vestryman shall, before he acts as such, take and subscribe the oath of support and fidelity required by the constitution and form of government, unless such person hath before taken such oath, and also make and subscribe a declaration of his belief in the Christian religion, and he shall also take and subscribe the following oath of office, to wit: "I, A.B. do solemnly swear, that I will faithfully execute the office of a vestryman of parish, in county, without prejudice, favour or affection, according to the best of my skill and knowledge;" which oaths and declarations any vestrymen present, may administer and take.

312F. Rules and regulations; rector to be member of vestry.

Each parish and/or vestry shall have power to make all rules and regulations respecting the temporal government and support of their respective parishes, not inconsistent with public law, including, but not limited to, the enactment of bylaws in accordance with the provisions of § 312A (a) hereof, containing specific provisions relating to the time and place of vestry meetings; establishing a quorum for the transaction of business which shall not be less than one third of the number of vestrymen nor more than a majority; and establishing specific provisions for giving due notice of all meetings. The rector of each parish shall be a member of the vestry.

312G. Duties of rector at vestry meetings; property rights of rector.

The rector of each parish for the time being shall preside in the vestry, collect the votes, and shall have a vote, and he shall have, unless he otherwise contracts with the vestry, the possession, occupation and free use of all the glebe lands, houses, ground rents, books and other property, belonging to his parish, and be entitled to the benefit thereof during the time he shall officiate therein as rector. Provided, however, that each parish may, by bylaws duly enacted in accordance with the provisions of § 312A (a) hereof, provide for any additional, or different, manner of determining the presiding officer of a vestry meeting.

312H. How property held and use thereof.

The vestry of each parish for the time being, as trustees of the parish, shall have an estate in fee simple in all churches and chapels, and in all glebes, and other lands, and shall have a good title and estate in all other property heretofore belonging to the Church of England, or which shall hereafter belong to the said church, now called Protestant Episcopal Church, in Maryland; and it shall be lawful for such vestry so to manage and direct all such property as they may think